

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 191356 TOSEC 080337
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 PRS-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M:BJMAXWELL
APPROVED BY PA/M:EGJACOBSON
S/S-AWOTTO
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
PA, S/S, S/PRS

-----129287 121846Z /44
P 121822Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 191356 TOSEC 080337

FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL 12 AUG
"ENTRETY FOR A TREATY."

2. THE FIRST PANAMA CANAL NEGOTIATION IS NOW OVER. THE
SECOND WILL SOON BEGIN. THE FIRST WAS WITH THE PANA-
MANIANS. THE SECOND WILL BE WITH A MINORITY OF UNITED
STATES SENATORS. PRESIDENT CARTER WILL NEED TO PAY
AS MUCH HEED TO THE SECOND AS TO THE FIRST. OTHERWISE
OUR RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA WILL BE POISONED AND
OUR ASSURANCE OF LONG-TERM ACCESS TO THE CANAL, FAR FROM
SAFEGUARDED, WILL BE PUT INTO JEOPARDY.

3. A FULL ASSESSMENT OF THE NEW TREATY WITH PANAMA--
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 191356 TOSEC 080337

REPLACING THE ONE-SIDED DOCUMENT OF 1903--MUST AWAIT RE-
LEASE OF THE FINAL TEXT. BUT ITS BROAD OUTLINES ARE
KNOWN. IT WOULD GRADUALLY GIVE PANAMA RESPONSIBILITY
FOR OPERATING THE CANAL ALONG WITH POSSESSION OF THE TEN-
MILE WIDE CANAL ZONE. PANAMA WOULD RECEIVE ABOUT \$60
MILLION A YEAR (INSTEAD OF THE PRESENT \$2.3 MILLION) FOR
THE CONTINUED USE OF SOME TERRITORY IN THE ZONE BY

AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES. THE PAYMENTS WOULD CEASE WHEN AMERICAN BASE RIGHTS EXPIRE IN THE YEAR 2000. PANAMA WOULD ASSURE UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO THE CANAL FOR THE SHIPPING OF ALL NATIONS. AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO DEFEND THE CANAL AGAINST EXTERNAL ATTACK.

4. THESE PROVISIONS MEET THE BASIC INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES, OF PANAMA, AND OF THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE HEMISPHERE. FOR THE UNITED STATES, THEY ASSURE CONTINUED ACCESS TO THE CANAL WHILE ELIMINATING A MAJOR IRRITANT TO INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE 1903 TREATY GUARANTEED UNITED STATES CONTROL OVER THE CANAL AND THE ZONE "IN PERPETUITY." IT WAS ACCEPTED BY REBELS WHO BROKE AWAY FROM COLOMBIA AND WHO SORELY NEEDED AMERICAN SUPPORT TO PROP UP THEIR NEW REPUBLIC; THEY WERE SCARCELY IN A STRONG BARGAINING POSITION. AS PANAMA'S SENSE OF NATIONHOOD GREW, SO DID ITS SENSE THAT THE TREATY WAS SIMPLY A COVER FOR AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF PANAMANIAN TERRITORY. THE "FLAG RIOTS" OF 1964, IN WHICH 24 PERSONS WERE KILLED AND 450 INJURED, SUGGEST THE DEPTHS OF RESENTMENT AGAINST THE TREATY. MEANWHILE, THE CANAL'S IMPORTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY HAS STEADILY DECLINED; ALL UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT CARRIERS AND SUPER-TANKERS, FOR INSTANCE, ARE TOO LARGE TO USE IT. ONLY A TINY FRACTION OF AMERICAN TRADE GOODS NOW PASSES THROUGH

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 191356 TOSEC 080337

IT.

5. FOR PANAMA, A BETTER FINANCIAL RETURN ON PASSAGE THROUGH THE CANAL WOULD ABET ITS ECONOMIC GROWTH. THE NEW TREATY, ONCE IN EFFECT, WOULD ALSO SERVE TO STABILIZE PANAMA'S POLITICS. IN RECENT YEARS, IT HAS BEEN ALL TOO EASY FOR POLITICIANS OUT OF POWER TO ACCUSE GOVERNMENTS OF "WEAKNESS" ON THE CANAL ISSUE. PANAMA'S PRESENT MILITARY RULER, GENERAL OMAR TORRIJOS HERRERA, FACES SOME FRINGE OPPOSITION OVER CONCESSIONS HE MADE TO REACH AGREEMENT.

6. THIS OPPOSITION WILL BE SMALL BY COMPARISON WITH THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WILL FACE. IN THE UNITED STATES, THE ISSUE IS THE SUBJECT OF AN EMOTIONAL DEBATE INTENSE BEYOND ALL PROPORTION TO THE CANAL'S IMPORTANCE. THAT INTENSITY IS BEST EXPLAINED NOT BY ECONOMICS OR NATIONAL SECURITY BUT, RATHER, BY A HANKERING FOR A SIMPLER TIME WHEN THE UNITED STATES COULD DISREGARD NATIONALIST SENTIMENTS IN SMALL COUNTRIES. PRESIDENT CARTER HIMSELF YIELDED TO SOME OF THAT EMOTION, DURING LAST YEAR'S ELECTION CAMPAIGN. SINCE TAKING OFFICE, HOWEVER, HE HAS

SHOWN UNDERSTANDING FOR THE LONG-RUN IMPORTANCE OF A

TREATY LIKE THE ONE BEING COMPLETED. THE TEXT WILL SOON
GO TO THE SENATE, WHERE A ONE-THIRD MINORITY CAN BLOCK
IT FROM TAKING EFFECT. THE PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO MAKE
IT A HIGH ORDER OF PRIORITY TO EXPLAIN TO THE COUNTRY
THE MERITS OF THE AGREEMENT HIS NEGOTIATORS HAVE REACHED.
THE SENATE MINORITY MUST NOT PREVAIL. (END TEXT) CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, AGREEMENTS, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE191356
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BJMAXWELL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770291-0497
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770866/aaaacdwnw.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 453c755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1613708
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, EWWT, PBOR, US, PN, NEW YORK TIMES, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/453c755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009